

New York Times
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21 Die in French Plane Crash, Including Generals and Admiral

PARIS, Jan. 21 (Reuters)—All 21 persons aboard a French Air Force transport plane, including two generals and an admiral, were killed when it crashed today, the Defense Ministry announced.

The wreck of the twin-engined Nord-262 turbo-prop plane was sighted by a military helicopter last night near Privas, in the mountainous Massif Central region.

The ministry said that the plane was on a flight from Paris to Orange in southern France, when it crashed.

Among the passengers were Vice Adm. Robert Landrin, Deputy Chief of Staff of the armed forces, and Gen. Edouard Billon, an atomic-weapons expert of the Defense Ministry. Seven officials of the French Atomic Energy Commission were also on board.

The Defense Ministry said that an inquiry would be opened immediately into the causes of the crash.

Victims Are Identified

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 21—According to the Defense Ministry statement, the 21 persons who died in the crash included four members of the plane's crew. The 17 others were indicated 7 senior officers of the French Atomic Energy Commission and

6 senior military officers in charge of atom affairs.

In addition to Admiral Landrin and General Billon, the officers were listed as Gen. Jean-Marc Pineau, chief of planning at the Army General Staff; his deputy, Colonel Birckel, and two other members of their department, Colonel d'Erceville and Lieutenant Commander Bouteiller.

The civilian officials were: Hubert de la Boulaye, an engineer who helped build the first French atomic reactor between 1947 and 1949 and who since 1962 headed the atomic energy agency's planning department with special responsibility for safety against radiation in the over-all French program.

Jacques Mabile, a mining engineer in charge of the agency's production of uranium, under whose aegis France has acquired what is said to be one tenth of the world's known uranium reserves, much of it in Africa.

Jean la Bussiere, a former aide of President Pompidou in charge of the agency's finances and auditing.

Francois Roubaix, and Jean Gau, both in charge of liaison between the agency and the Defense ministry.

There were also four non-commissioned officers of the French Air Force aboard the plane.

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CSAF FOR FOREIGN LIAISON DIV. DA FOR CSA. DOD FOR
DDR&E. AS MATTER OF POSSIBLE INTEREST THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS
WERE LISTED AS BEING ABOARD THE NORD 262 WHICH CRASHED YESTERDAY
WHILE ENROUTE PARIS TO PIERRELATTE. ALL 21 PERSONS ABOARD WERE
KILLED. VICE ADMIRAL LANDRIN - VICE C/S, ARMED FORCES HQ; AF
BRIG GEN PINEAU - CHIEF, PLANS-PROGRAMS DIV, ARMED FORCES HQ;
ENGINEER GENERAL BILLION - DMA, ATOMIC AFFAIRS; COLONEL BIRCKEL -
ASST CHIEF, PLANS-PROGRAMS DIV, ARMED FORCES HQ; COLONEL D'ERCEVILLE

PLANS-PROGRAMS DIV, ARMED FORCES HQ; LT CMDR BOUTEILLIER - PLANS-
PROGRAMS DIV, ARMED FORCES HQ; MR. JACQUES MABILE - FATHER OF FRENCH
URANIUM; MR. DE LABOULAYE - CHIEF, PROGRAMS DIV, ATOMIC
COMMISSION; MR. LA BUSSIERE - FINANCIAL DIRECTOR AND COMPTROLLER,
AEC; MR. TIROLE, ASST DIRECTOR, MILITARY APPLICATIONS DIV, AEC,
MR. RONTEIX - SUPPLY DIV, AEC; MR. JOHANN - SECRETARY, JOINT ARMY -
AEC COMMITTEE; COLONEL GAUME - MILITARY ATTACHE TO AEC GENERAL
ADMINISTRATION; IN ADDITION, 4 AF ENLISTED MEN AND 4 CREW MEMBERS.
FOR CJCS: CJCS WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT VICE ADMIRAL LANDRIN
WAS A MEMBER OF THE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY GENERAL FOURQUET DURING RECENT

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TRIP TO PARIS.

COMMENT BY DATT: INGENIEUR-EN-CHEF MESNET OF THE DMA TOLD ME
AT LUNCH TODAY THAT THIS ACCIDENT WAS A SEVERE BLOW TO THE FRENCH
ARMED FORCES ATOMIC EFFORT. IT HAD DECAPITATED MOST OF THEIR
PLANS AND PROGRAMS SECTION IN THE NUCLEAR MILITARY EFFORT FIELD
AND WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN A PROHIBITION OF SIMILAR GROUPS
FLYING TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE.

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ANNOTES

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Nord 262 - Paris to Orange (not far fm San Cristol(sp) -IRBM complex)

21 persons aboard plane - 7 senior officials of French AEC
6 senior military officials in charge of atomic
affairs

Atomic Energy types:

Hubert D'Le Boulaye - engineer, headed AEC planning dept
with special responsibility against radiation

Jock Mobile - mining engineer in charge of agency's production
of uranium (because of him France was able to acquire
1/10 of world's uranium reserves)

Jean La Bussiere - in charge of AEC finances and audit

Francois Roubaix in charge of liaison between AEC and
Jean Gau Defense Ministry

French Defense Ministry announced an investigation as to the cause is
under way. It is immediately attributable to the bad weather (over
mountain region). They are going to take steps so in the future not so
many high officials will be flying in the same plane.

Military:

Vice Admiral Robert Landrin - Deputy Chief of Staff, Armed Forces

General Edward Billion - atomic weapons expert of Defense Ministry

General Jean Mark Pineau - Chief of planning of Army General Staff

his deputy - Col Brickel